AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining that a user is authorized to receive less than all of an electronic mail message based on at least one digital right associated with the electronic mail message;

selecting the [[a]] portion of the electronic mail message that the user is authorized to receive;

reducing the electronic mail message to remove the unauthorized portion; and

providing the selected portion to the user in the reduced of the electronic mail message.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining that a user is authorized to receive less than all of the electronic mail message comprises determining that a user is authorized to receive less than all of the electronic mail message based upon at least one of a copyright, a distribution right, a broadcast right, a reproduction right, a publication right, a licensing restriction, fair use, and a restriction imposed by the Digital Rights Millennium Copyright Act.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the user is authorized to receive less than all of the electronic mail message comprises accessing at least one of a user input and a user profile.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein accessing the user profile comprises accessing the user profile on at least one of a local device and a remote device.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising acquiring authorization to receive a protected portion of the electronic mail message.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein acquiring the authorization comprises acquiring a license to receive the protected portion of the electronic mail message.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein acquiring the authorization comprises directing the user to an owner of the digital rights to the protected portion of the electronic mail message.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising providing the protected portion of the electronic mail message in response to acquiring the authorization.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the portion comprises determining a format of at least one file associated with the electronic mail message.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein selecting the portion of the electronic mail message comprises identifying at least one chart, table, page, agenda, table of contents, summary, audio clip, or video clip based upon the determined file format.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein selecting the portion of the electronic mail message comprises reducing the resolution of the at least one file associated with the electronic mail message based upon the determined file format.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein reducing the resolution of the at least one file comprises downcasting a portion of at least one of an audio file, video file, a multimedia file, an image file, and a graphics file.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining that it is desirable to receive less than all of the electronic mail message.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein determining that it is desirable to provide less than all of an electronic mail messages comprises:

>   determining a threshold time;

>   determining a value associated with a data transfer rate;

>   determining a value associated with a size of the electronic mail message;

>   estimating a transfer time using the determined value associated with the data transfer rate and the determined value associated with the size of the electronic mail message;

>   comparing the threshold time and the estimated transfer time; and

>   selecting a portion of the electronic mail message based upon the comparison.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the selected portion of the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the selected portion from a server to a processor based device and storing the electronic mail message on the server.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the selected portion of the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the selected portion from a processor-based device to a server and storing the electronic mail message on the processor based device.

17.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

>   determine that a user is authorized to receive less than all of an electronic mail message based on at least one digital right associated with the electronic mail message;

>   select the [[a]] portion of the electronic mail message that the user is authorized to receive;

>   reduce the electronic mail message to remove the unauthorized portion; and

>   provide the selected portion to the user in the reduced of the electronic mail message.

18.   (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to access at least one of a user input and a user profile.

19.   (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to acquire authorization to receive a protected portion of the electronic mail message.

20.   (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to provide the protected portion of the electronic mail message in response to acquiring the authorization to receive the protected portion of the electronic mail message.

21.   (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to direct the user to an owner of the digital rights to the unauthorized portion of the electronic mail message.

22.   (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to downcast a portion of at least one of an audio file, video file, a multimedia file, an image file, and a graphics file.

23.   (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the one or more machine-readable storage media contain instructions that when executed enable the processor to:
    determine a threshold time;
    determine a value associated with a data transfer rate;
    determine a value associated with a size of the electronic mail message;
    estimate a transfer time using the determined value associated with the data transfer rate
        and the determined value associated with the size of the electronic mail message;
    compare the threshold time and the estimated transfer time; and

select a portion of the electronic mail message based upon the comparison.

24.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an interface; and

a control unit coupled to the interface and adapted to:

> determine that a user is authorized to receive less than all of an electronic mail
> message based on at least one digital right associated with the electronic
> mail message;

> select the [[a]] portion of the electronic mail message that the user is authorized to
> receive;

> reduce the electronic mail message to remove the unauthorized portion; and

> provide the selected portion to the user in the reduced ~~of the~~ electronic mail
> message.

25.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the control unit is adapted to access at least
one of a user input and a user profile via the interface.

26.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the control unit is adapted to acquire
authorization to receive a protected portion of the electronic mail message.

27.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the control unit is adapted to provide the
protected portion of the electronic mail message in response to acquiring the authorization to
receive the protected portion of the electronic mail message.

28.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the control unit is adapted to downcast a
portion of at least one of an audio file, video file, a multimedia file, an image file, and a graphics
file.

29.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the control unit is adapted to:

   determine a threshold time;

   determine a value associated with a data transfer rate;

   determine a value associated with a size of the electronic mail message;

   estimate a transfer time using the determined value associated with the data transfer rate
       and the determined value associated with the size of the electronic mail message;

   compare the threshold time and the estimated transfer time; and

   select a portion of the electronic mail message based upon the comparison.

30.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

   a first processor based device; and

   a second processor based device adapted to:

       determine that a user is authorized to receive less than all of an electronic mail
           message based on at least one digital right associated with the electronic
           mail message;

       select the [[a]] portion of the electronic mail message that the user is authorized to
           receive;

       reduce the electronic mail message to remove the unauthorized portion; and

       provide the selected portion to the user in the reduced of the electronic mail
           message.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the second processor-based device is a server,
and further comprising a network, and wherein the server and the at least one first processor-
based device are communicatively coupled via the network.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the second processor-based device is adapted
to queue the electronic mail message.

33. (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising a storage unit, and wherein the second processor-based device is adapted to provide the electronic mail message to the storage unit.

34. (Original) A method for interfacing with a user of a computer system having a graphical user display, comprising:

    displaying at least one indicator of a digital rights management rule associated with at least one portion of at least one electronic mail message;

    monitoring the position and selection status of a pointer controller to detect that at least one of the at least one indicators has been selected by the user; and

    providing an indication of a user authorization associated with the at least one portion of the at least one electronic mail message and the digital rights management rule in response to detecting that at least one of the at least one indicators has been selected by the user.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein providing the indication of the user authorization comprises providing at least one of an option to acquire one or more digital rights and an option to downcast the at least one portion of the at least one electronic mail message.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising providing an option to modify the digital rights management rule associated with the at least one portion of the at least one electronic mail message in response to detecting that at least one of the at least one indicators has been selected by the user.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising controlling a pointer element on the graphical user display with a user pointer controller, the pointer controller having position and selection status responsive to operation by the user.

38.   (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein displaying the at least one indicator of the indication of the user authorization associated with the at least one portion of the at least one electronic mail message and the digital rights management rule comprises displaying at least one of a closed-lock icon and an open-lock icon.